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The Playground

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SETH THAYER STEWART
EDITOR

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The Playground

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A statement of the plans of the Children's Festivals Committee of the Hudson-Fulton Celebration Commission for the City of New York will be found on page 17 of the present number of THE PLAYGROUND.

Much work has already been accomplished. Models of houses, floats, banners, etc., are being set up, and visitors are cordially invited to inspect these at 180 Montague Street, Brooklyn.

The Commission offers medals for excellent work in preparing children for the Festivals.

Mr. Ben Greet has volunteered to assist during September in all dramatic forms of expression and the Committee has secured the co-operation of Mr. Louis F. Chalif, for the folk dancing. Many school organizations, churches, settlements, and societies, interested in children, have already agreed to co-operate.

It is the plan of the Children's Festivals Committee that no child shall be expected to go far from home. According to the co-operation of friends, the children's festivals will be as numerous, as varied in character, and as convenient to home as possible. The hope is expressed that this celebration may disclose the importance of the stream of life of the million children surging through the streets of the metropolis and the necessity of making at least some permanent provision for giving it direction and character. If neighbors are united into local committees through volunteer leaders in their several neighborhoods, a great movement, thus started, will not only give splendid shape to the children's pageant but result in permanent value to the children of the city in making their lives, so much of which is necessarily spent upon the streets, more possible and happy.

For further suggestions volunteer leaders of the friends of children should address

THE CHILDREN'S FESTIVALS COMMITTEE,
1133 Broadway, New York City.

Numbers One, Two and Ten, of THE PLAYGROUND are out of print. The Playground Association of America would appreciate it much if any one having copies to spare would send some of each of these numbers to the Association office at No. 1 Madison Avenue, New York City.

SAN FRANCISCO PLAYGROUNDS—

WHERE SHALL THE CHILDREN PLAY?

By E. FRENCH STROTHER.

(From *The California Weekly*.)

THAT question must be answered by every large city. Children cooped in city houses make poor physical specimens and poor citizens. Children running wild upon the streets endanger their lives, impede traffic, and perpetrate mischief. Children denied the opportunity to work off their animal spirits in wholesome exercise pervert those spirits to mischievous uses. Most juvenile crime originates in the most crowded parts of big cities.

What is San Francisco doing to provide playgrounds for its children?

NOT ENOUGH PLAYGROUNDS.

Not nearly enough. Something has been done; something more is planned; certain bodies are enthusiastically urging that a great deal be done. But, though there should be a playground within four blocks of every child's home, there are to-day in San Francisco—a city of 400,000 inhabitants—only two public places legally set apart permanently for this purpose.

What has been done is this:

A block has been set aside at Seventh and Harrison streets, on the south side of the city, and another block at North Beach, on the north side of the city, under the control of the Playgrounds Commission. These are exclusively for the use of the children. The other places where they may now play are a few plots lent by the Park Commission, a few vacant lots lent by private parties, and the streets. For the use of all these—except the streets—the Playgrounds Commission is largely responsible.

ORIGIN OF PLAYGROUND MOVEMENT.

The playgrounds movement in San Francisco originated with the Ladies of the California Club. In their studies they had learned of the great advantages derived from it in Eastern cities—

Washington, New York, and, most notably, in Chicago. The last-named city has led the advance in this movement, spending millions of dollars to acquire blocks in every part of the city, and extending the work to keep pace with the growth of population. Its experience has proved that juvenile disorder and juvenile crime decreases in exact ratio to the increase of playground facilities. It proved that the money spent was much more than saved by this decrease in police precautions, and by the resultant decrease in adult crime, because the criminal who is potential in a cooped-up child ceased to grow up into an adult criminal when children were given other facilities for the expenditure of their energies and ingenuity.

THE PLAYGROUND COMMISSION.

With these facts in mind, the California Club besought the city government to form a Playgrounds Commission and to issue bonds to acquire sites for playgrounds. The city administration was favorably inclined, and the matter was made an issue of the election of 1907. At that election, the ladies got out and solicited votes. They had strong adherents in the firemen, for whom the club had performed many good offices; and by their own efforts and the co-operation of the fire department, they succeeded in polling enough votes to carry a charter amendment for the formation of a commission and to vote bonds to acquire the two grounds mentioned above.

On November 23, 1907, the legislature approved the charter amendment, and in January, 1908, Mayor Taylor appointed the following members of the Playgrounds Commission, two of them being members of the California Club, in recognition of their labors to bring the issue out:

H. J. McCoy, secretary of the Y. M. C. A.; Mrs. L. A. Hayward; Mrs. Lovell White; Sidney S. Peixotto, of the Col-

—SAN FRANCISCO PLAYGROUNDS

umbia Park Boys' Club; J. C. Estrada, superintendent of the Catholic Mission; John McLaren, superintendent of Golden Gate Park; and, *ex-officio*, the president of the Board of Education. John W. Sweeney, president of the Iron Workers Council was chosen secretary, and to him has been committed the executive oversight of the construction work on the playgrounds.

This commission has equal dignity with any other municipal board, and is equally entitled to call upon the Board of Supervisors for appropriations to carry on its work. It has had the hearty sympathy of the city administration.

PLAYGROUNDS FOR EVERY CHILD.

But the appropriations that have been possible so far are not enough. At the next bond election it is proposed to submit to the voters a bond issue sufficient to cover the expense of purchasing four additional sites for playgrounds for the exclusive and perpetual use of the children.

These sites are geographically distributed so as to supply every part of the city with the beginnings of an adequate system of playgrounds. They are located as follows: One in the Potrero, one at Dolores and Eighteenth streets, one at Dolores and Twenty-ninth streets, and one on Moscow street, well out on the Mission road.

The general plan of development of these playgrounds is indicated by the plan being worked out at North Beach. This ground (bounded by Powell, Greenwich, Mason, Lombard and Montgomery avenue) is being leveled and walled in. Baseball fields will be laid out upon it. A portion will be reserved for a girls' playground, and suitable games, such as basketball, will be provided for their use. The Board of Works will construct two swimming pools: one for warm sea baths; the other for cold sea baths. These pools will be shallow—so that children may

use them to splash in and to learn to swim.

HOW THE GROUNDS ARE USED.

Several hundred children can be accommodated on such a playground. Not only have they the advantage of providing exercise in the open air, but that exercise is of a kind that appeals to children. For one boy who likes to go through the military drill of gymnasium exercises under the disciplinary eye of a director, there are a hundred who like to play baseball. It has the competitive element; it allows the initiative of the boys to exercise itself; they play the game they like as they please, settling their own disputes, instead of going through a cut-and-dried program prepared by somebody else. When there were plenty of vacant lots in San Francisco, in earlier days, this city turned out many of the best professional ball players in the country; and now it turns out very few. Developing professional ball players is not the aim of the Playgrounds Commission.

TEMPORARY PLAYGROUNDS.

At the request of the commission, other grounds have been lent for temporary use. The park commissioners have lent Lobos Square, on the north side of town, and this will be made into a baseball field of the eastern lawn type. An oval tract of land opposite the Mission High School, in Mission Park, has also been lent for use as a playground and running track. And Franklin Park will be made into a baseball field for the boys.

The ideal playground should have separate spaces for boys and girls; should be supplied with some gymnastic apparatus; should have as director an educated man with a knowledge of games and a sympathetic insight into boys' character, and, as assistant, a matron to look after the girls; and should have a permanent building, equipped with baths, dressing rooms and reading room. This building, in Eastern cities, is also

SAN FRANCISCO PLAYGROUNDS—

used for a lecture hall for the purpose of bringing the children's parents together and of keeping them in touch with the younger folks' recreations.

An important adjunct of the public playground is the school yard. In San Francisco, so far, this adjunct has not been utilized. The janitors have complained that the children make extra work by using the grounds after school and on holidays, and the janitors seem to have controlled the situation. This is a great mistake in policy.

Fortunately, some work has been done to change this policy. Under the leadership of Mr. Sidney S. Peixotto, the Board of Education has granted permission to erect basketball courts on the school grounds, and here the boys and girls are to be allowed to play after school under the direction of a teacher. This is a good move. It should lead ultimately to further adaptations of school grounds to playground purposes, not only on school days, but on Saturdays and holidays.

Mr. Peixoto has also taken the lead in another movement allied with purposes of the playground commission. This is to form a league of all the schools, known as the Public School Athletic League. For lack of facilities for other sports, the events contested for under its auspices are all running races, but these have aroused the athletic spirit among the boys amazingly. Each school, to win in a meet, must have a full squad of runners. A full squad is forty-four boys. There are twenty-eight public schools in the league. Fourteen parochial schools have also adopted the plan. The result is that nearly 2,000 boys of San Francisco are getting wholesome exercise and a development of the competitive spirit. A further result is a very notable improvement in school-room behavior, for no boy is allowed on a team who falls below a fixed standard of scholarship and behavior.

CHILDREN'S APPRECIATION.

Some idea of the popular appreciation of playgrounds may be got from the playground at Golden Gate Park. Though this is a pay-ground—the others will be free—thousands of children flock to it on clear days, paying their nickels for rides on the merry-go-rounds, and on the goats and donkeys, and for the privilege of using the swings and teeterboards. On May Day as many as 20,000 children have come. Other thousands romp on the grass and throng the ball grounds and tennis courts.

But these enjoyments cost at least carefare to and from the park, and usually the time of some elder escort. With playgrounds properly distributed throughout the city, every child could walk to a free place for exercise and recreation, away from the baneful influence and the physical dangers of the streets, to enjoy its games under the eye of a sympathetic director who would not interfere with the pleasure, but only see that everyone had a fair opportunity to play safely and happily.

The gain will be incalculable. A race of healthier children, growing up under wholesome and natural conditions. Fewer child criminals, fewer probation officers, fewer juvenile courts, fewer reform schools; fewer adult criminals, fewer policemen; fewer criminal courts, fewer jails; less taxes for the machinery of hospitals and criminal law; more happiness in youth and more health in manhood and womanhood.

It is an alluring prospect. Better, it is a practical possibility—a demonstrated success. Chicago has proved it; Washington has proved it; Denver has proved it. San Francisco should not overlook it. The California Club is doing its best, the Playgrounds Committee is hard at it, the Mission Improvement Club is doing a great deal. Every voter can help. How? When the next bond election comes around, look for the issue for playgrounds, and vote for it.

—PSYCHOLOGY OF PLAY

A STUDY IN THE PSYCHOLOGY OF PLAY.

BY FRANK A. NAGLEY.

(Continued from last month.)

WILL.

The will or volition is a strong factor in developing self-expression in play life. To will to do a thing is to fix your attention upon it sufficiently. To win in an athletic contest is to make yourself want to win strong enough to pay the price. The will dominates our movements in so far as the idea catches and holds our attention. If one wills anything and holds his attention on it long enough and hard enough, the muscular action must inevitably come—at least to the extent of our strength. Many people fail because they give up too easily and think their power insufficient, when a little more will power would have made them eminently successful. There is always a pleasureable tone to successful willing. When one wins a contest, performs some difficult feat, masters some difficult situation, all of which requires intense attention and will power, the satisfaction is a remuneration for the effort and also an incentive to repeat the process. It is easier to will the same process the second time, and soon our wills operate along certain lines of fixed action. Thus the fixation of our modes of willing becomes habit, and these habits are the bulwark of character. Character can never become fixed because experience is constantly presenting new aspects of life which require a reconstruction of previous attitudes and modes of conduct. Thus will is ever active. If a child is compelled to play on forbidden territory, in a filthy alley, or with a tough gang in secret coverts, his *will* will gradually be modified from the high ideal of better surroundings, and his moral fiber weakened. Will is further influenced by interest and desire.

WILL AND DESIRE.

Play life is initiated by desire and regulated by will. Desire is a more intensified form of interest. Interest in certain forms of activity arises from instinct modified and regulated by the conscious processes. While interest, like the other psychical experiences, always has some stimulus, it also has some definite object toward which it is directed. Our interests are at first directed by predispositions. The pleasurable effect of the success of the activity of these interests tends to make them become fixed in the organism. One may have an inherited instinct for music. The first success of a musical operation tends to make the impulse a conscious interest. The success of this interest may become all-absorbing to the neglect of all other interests, or it may not. Interests are also directed by the accidental success of random impulses. It is the consciousness of success that tends to form interests. The pleasurable success of a child's activities in play determine his interest in it. As a rule children are slow to take up a new play. Their interest in it has not been sufficiently aroused by previous success. The changing of the interest of a child in plays which are native to the alley and coal-shed, to those of the open public playground is not likely to be sudden or spasmodic, because his interests must be changed by the pleasurable success of the new activities. Nevertheless, when his interests in play have been so changed, the results are likely to become wholesome and permanent. Interests are basic in our native constitution but are always modified by our education and environment. Desire is interest deepened and intensified.

It is a craving for activity which we know will give us pleasurable satisfaction. Desire gets its impetus from its impulsive nature; it gains its rationality from experience. In it we find our

PSYCHOLOGY OF PLAY—

complex thought processes at work; we see our impulsive instincts co-ordinated into habitual routine; we see the effective elements of consciousness exerting their powerful and mysterious processes of agreeable selection; in fact, we see the whole conative character of consciousness brought to light. Man is arbiter of his own destiny. A man's desires which he has largely moulded himself under the ideal of environment, is the best possible index to character. What a man desires to do, where there are no restraints, is the real index to his character. One may not follow his desires because he may be restrained by his ideal or by fear of pain or punishment. Will is the throttle of desire. One who deliberately wills to restrain a desire soon changes the desire into another of different nature to which he may conscientiously yield. Character is the combination of desire and will. A man of strong character is one who, feeling the acute poignancy of his desires, still opposes the temptation with an indomitable will which is ever guided by the irresistible force of his ideal. Children are forming character on the playground; for there they are spending a larger part of their time, and there they are developing more than in any other place their own initiative and self-expressive power. Their desires and self-expressive powers are called out by environment. If the environment is bad, a child's desires must be bad. If he does not have a decent place in which to play, and one which will call forth his best spontaneous interests, how can he become the man whom he ought to become? If children learn to play dishonestly and to win by cheating; or if they engage in questionable sports and practice immoral suggestions with no example or ideal of a better way to play, their desires will become a craving for those activities which have become agreeable in such surroundings and these are

likely to become self-expressive and permanent in their lives. *Will* never comes in to change a desire until an ideal has been presented which will call forth a desire for a new activity. Decent playgrounds will call for new, wholesome desires for open play; these desires will supplant the old of the alley and the trash-heap. Then the *will*, which is the whole mind active, will impel the child toward the new play activities, and soon new habits will be formed which must supplant the old. Does not then the well directed playground with well equipped apparatus, with directors of high ideals and a knowledge of child development, and with an open place in which to play where the success of one depends upon his co-operation with the whole and where every child feels that he is not trespassing but has a play legacy given him by the state of which he is a part—does not such a playground offer opportunities for a splendid child development? Briefly, then, in so short a space, we have seen how the psychical development is influenced by play. The instinct, habits, reason, will and desires do not all act separately but in conjunction. One is not complete without the other and all are intricately related. All these with their psychical auxiliaries are being exercised every day in the play life of human beings. Play is fundamental in child development because it calls forth the spontaneous interests of the child more than any other line of activity. All education is based upon the principle of developing the native interests of the child rather than stuffing these immature beings with some system of artificial ideas entirely from without and uncongenial to the child. Here are formed the habits of life. The instinct for play is the same as that for agreeable work. A boy who is successful in play is usually successful in business. One who is a cheat in his gang will be

—GERMAN GYMNASTIC FESTIVALS

a cheat at the head of a corporation. A boy who has the ambition of a thug instilled into him in his play-life in the alley, will generally be successful as a murderer. A boy who plays to construct things of usefulness will be a man of ideals, and one who will be of service to humanity. Neatness, accuracy, patience, submission to law, co-operation, and usefulness may all be learned on a neat, open playground, but will seldom be experienced in the play of the alley, ash-heap, secret hall-way, basement, or coal-shed.

THE GERMAN GYMNASTIC FESTIVALS.

The German Gymnastic Festivals of the United Gymnastic Societies are held every five years.

In Frankfort one was held in 1908, which began on the 11th and lasted until the 26th of July.

During the first week, preliminary exercises and rehearsals were held on the exhibition grounds, which were about four blocks long and three blocks wide.

Directly in front of the grandstand, 16 horizontal and 50 parallel bars, 44 horses, 16 bucks, a number of climbing poles, ladders, giant strides, jumping stands and the like had been set up. The center of the field was reserved for games, such as foot, first tambourine and schlag ball. On the left in front, a large space was set aside for the "model" exercises. On the right, three large tents were erected, where competitive exercises on the different apparatuses took place. A running track was situated in the rear. All measurements were recorded by an electric apparatus. At the entrance to the left stood an enormous festival hall with a sitting capacity of 18,000. There the official reception, concerts and part of the exhibition were held. This festival hall was built and is owned by the city, and cost nearly 5,000,000 marks to erect.

It remains for the use of future festivals, such as play an important part in the social life of the German people.

As Frankfort is generally overrun with visitors from all parts, at the very time of the year at which this Turnfest took place, the greatest difficulty to encounter was to arrange proper accommodations for the competitors and their guests. Thanks to the great interest and assistance of the city authorities, this difficulty was overcome. Fifty thousand visitors were expected and about 60,000 came.

Seventeen thousand men were entered in the exercises.

The competitive work, which was divided into five groups began on Sunday, July 19th.

In the first group, which is always considered the most ideal test for an all around gymnast, 1,400 men participated. The work consisted of two exercises each on the horizontal and parallel bars, and horse—one free hand exercise—putting the 20-pound shot, high jumping and hurdle racing. One hundred and forty were the highest obtainable points. Two hundred and twenty-four men received more than 100 points each, and were entitled to a diploma and wreath, the highest honor which was given any gymnast.

Second group.—Exclusively athletic events. Broad and high jump, putting the 30-pound shot, hop-step-and-jump, 100 meter dash and throwing a 4-pound ball. Twenty-six thousand men were entered, of which about 500 gained the necessary points in order to get a prize.

Third group.—Swimming, wrestling, fencing and games. Basket and baseball were played by the American teams. Two hundred and seventy societies competed in the various games.

The "model" exercises.—From morning till night the enormous field was occupied by "model" classes and players. No matter where the eyes of the spectator turned, they saw before them a

GERMAN GYMNASTIC FESTIVALS—

mass of humanity in rhythmic and graceful motion. The performers on the different apparatus, in the competitive as well as in the "model" exercises, were of the most effective type, especially some exercises on the horizontal bar, were of such a daring character, that as Dr. Sargent, who was a spectator declared, were equal to those we see in the circus.

In the evenings exhibitions were given on the platform which was erected on the field. The performances comprised such exercises as pyramids, electric club swinging and the like. Besides the gymnastic demonstration held in the festival hall, concerts were given there every evening by the United Singing Societies, assisted by the Philharmonic Orchestra of Frankfort. While this was going on, a spectacle which pictured the development of gymnastics from the earliest times to the present, was being performed in the Court Theatre.

In the parade, which took place on Sunday, June 19th, 60,000 men were in line. It was preceded by a number of symbolical groups portraying the history of gymnastics as from ancient Grecian times to the middle ages. We Americans about 400 in number, had the honor to march at the head of the parade, and were greeted on all sides with tremendous applause. Along the line of march the sidewalks, the windows and even the roofs were thronged with people, who showered us with flowers as we passed. The parade began in the heart of the city at 11 o'clock in the morning, and it was 5 o'clock before the rear portion reached the exhibition grounds, when 17,000 men at once fell in line for free hand exercises. In spite of the fact that a light rain began to fall, not a man left his place.

All exercises, including those of 12,000 school children and 1,000 ladies were

taken first to response, and the rhythmic time to the sound of electric bells which were distributed all over the field.

In the awarding of the prizes, the greatest secrecy was preserved. No one but the highest officials knew the complete final results before the public announcement. After a short address by the President of "Die Deutsche Turnerschaft," Dr. Goetz, the victorious were called up and crowned with laurel wreaths by young ladies. A wreath with an accompanying diploma, is the only and highest honor, which the victor can attain. For the second time the first two prizes went to men from Munich.

Hand in hand with the love of gymnastics goes the love of song, of merriment and of wandering. Everywhere one could hear the beautiful songs of Germany, proclaiming the joys and sorrows of love—the love of home—but above all—the glories of the Fatherland.

All countries were represented, Russia, Italy, Belgium, Australia, Brazil and even Japan. From the United States about 1,000 in all availed themselves of the opportunity of visiting the festival, and on every side they were hailed with the most cordial greetings. Seventy men participated in the competition, of which 22 gained prizes. These 70 men under the direction of Mr. Brosius gave an exhibition with dumbbells, which met with universal applause. The "model" exercises on the parallel bars and the swinging of electric clubs by men from St. Louis also found the highest appreciation.

Although two military bands played alternately on the field, the Americans were the only ones whose exercises were accompanied by music.

Fritz Krimmel,
1350 Clinton Avenue,
N. Y. City.

—CLEVELAND, OHIO

A SEATTLE PLAYGROUND.

Seattle is rapidly "getting into her pace" in so far as playground matters go. This western metropolis has a way of doing things with a swing and a hustle that usually accomplishes a great deal in a short space of time, and there is no doubt but that the playground movement will receive its full share of attention.

Last year after a striking appeal by Dr. George J. Fisher, of New York, which was followed by a visit from Mr. Hanmer, the Board of Park Commissioners decided to enter the playground business. Consequently some locations were secured and a small amount of home-made equipment was installed upon one small lot and a director placed in charge.

The playground was successful and this summer, instead of one playground with one man in charge, the commission is operating four good sized playgrounds, two of which are equipped with Spalding apparatus and each one supervised by a man and a woman instructor. With four playgrounds against last year's record of one, and with three others improved and an additional seven unimproved, making a total of fourteen play spaces already acquired, Seattle is in line to follow the lead of the foremost cities in playground improvement.

J. HOWARD STINE,
Supt. of Playfields,
Seattle, Wash.

CLEVELAND, OHIO.

The first Municipal Outdoor Athletic Meet conducted by the Cleveland Park Department, Saturday, May 29th, at the city Stadium proved to be a very interesting and successful affair.

This meet dedicated the new Municipal Stadium. Surrounded on all

sides by hills, the field is the centre of a vast natural amphitheatre. Thousands of spectators sat on the hillside cheering the winners of the various events, in which over two hundred men from twelve of the leading gymnasiums and clubs such as Municipal Y. M. C. A., and settlement houses had representing teams.

Medals were awarded the winners in each of the events and a handsome loving cup was presented to the institution scoring the most points.

This meet as well as the indoor meet conducted by the Park Department, a short time before was in charge of E. L. Bloomberg, Director of the Municipal Gymnasium, and T. C. Moore, Secretary of the Park Department, who are to be congratulated in the way these affairs were conducted.

These meets being so successful the Park Department has decided to make them an annual affair.

E. L. Bloomberg, Physical Director of the Orange Avenue Municipal Gymnasium and Playground, Cleveland, Ohio, for the last five years has been appointed Supervisor of the Municipal Playgrounds, succeeding Geo. Ehler, in charge last year.

The seven playgrounds were formally opened Wednesday, June 23d, and will remain open during the vacation period from 9 A. M. to 5 P. M. daily.

Ten men and six women instructors were employed for the various grounds in some of which two men and one woman instructor will be in charge.

Supervisor Bloomberg has inaugurated a number of features in playgrounds, some among which are boys' and girls' republics—a system of self-government—for each ground, as well as such features as Playground Flower Days, and Children's Country Excursions.

EVANSVILLE—

MAYOR RELEASED AFTER PLAYGROUND PROMISES.

(From The Evansville Press.)

"THREE cheers for Mayor Nolan and three cheers for playgrounds," shouted a little girl as the mayor stepped out before the crowd in Riverside avenue.

"You boys and girls have won the victory," said the mayor.

"For the first time in the history of the city you boys and girls have exercised your right and have come up to the city hall to make demands for what you want.

"You have done right. City officials are your servants as well as the servants of the people who vote them into office.

"Cities would be better if the boys and girls took more interest in them. You ought to attend council meetings. You ought to know what is going on.

"I have made it a rule of life never to promise a child anything I can't give it. So I am not going to promise you a lot of things to-day that I can't give you. I've got boys of my own and I've given them about everything I have and still they want more. You may all want more than I can give, but I will promise you, on my word of honor, as a captive of war, that you will have at least two playgrounds and a floating swimming pool, possibly two.

"You girls need playgrounds as well as the boys, and I want to do all I can to help you to grow up to be healthy physically, morally and mentally.

"I want to thank you all for coming to the city hall to-day, and I want to impress upon you that you have as much right to make demands as anyone. I want you to come back and see me again."

Then hundreds of voices joined in a cheer for playgrounds that drowned out the band.

OPENING OF ZABRISKI PLAYGROUND FOR JERSEY CITY CHILDREN.

(From The Evening Journal, June 21, 1909.)

Cornelius Zabriski, like the late Eugene Field, was a lover of children. He spent all his spare moments with youngsters, and happy was he when he could see the little ones happy. When Cornelius Zabriski died he left to Jersey City an acre or more of land fronting on Mercer Street to be used as a playground for the children. He also left a sum of money to be used in the improvement of this ground so that the children of this railroad city could enjoy the pleasures of green pastures, sand heaps, wading pool, running track and other up-to-date health-giving things that the children of the tenements do not often get.

The dying wish of Cornelius Zabriski will be gratified at 2 o'clock to-day when the Children's Playground will be formally thrown open with fitting ceremony.

It is a big day for the little boys and girls in Jersey City. The No. 9 School Band, piping all the leading songs, will entertain the invited guests. Pupils from the Jersey City Training School are on the programme for several songs.

Mayor H. Otto Wittpenn will make the address of acceptance and the Rev. A. J. Lyman, of Brooklyn, the presentation speech. After the speechmaking, singing and tunes by the band and prayers have been said by the Rev. Arnold Bavendam and the Rev. John F. Ryan, the grounds will be turned over to the youngsters.

The cost of everything is said to be in the neighborhood of \$12,000.

The pictures on the opposite page were taken on the opening of Zabriski Playground.



SPALDING ALL-STEEL EQUIPMENT AT ZABRISKI PLAYGROUND, JERSEY CITY.

PLAYGROUND LEAGUE—

A LETTER.

This letter is typical of the intelligent and vigorous manner in which many local playground associations are working.

OSWEGO MUNICIPAL PLAYGROUND ASSOCIATION.

OSWEGO, N. Y., June 24, 1909.

RICHARD K. PIEZ, President.

FRANK A. SAYER, Vice-President.

Mrs. MARY H. MACELROY, Secretary.

LUTHER W. MOTT, Treasurer.

LEE F. HANMER, Secretary,
9202 Metropolitan Building,
1 Madison Avenue, New York.

DEAR SIR: One feature of our organization which may interest you is our Junior Playground League. I enclose our enrollment form which explains the function of the League. We hope to interest the parents through the children. Each member of the League wears a button and helps to increase the chapters and the membership of each chapter.

We are making good progress with one of our playgrounds. This is located in Kingsford Park, an abandoned cemetery, containing about four acres. It is a beautiful level spot in one of our well populated wards and has been graded for our purpose. The Common Council and the Department of Works appropriated the money for grading, which is being done under the direction of the Commissioner of Works. About \$300 additional for this purpose was raised by the people of the neighborhood. We are now ready to install apparatus and expect to spend about \$800 for the purpose. After carefully considering the matter we have decided not to trust to home-made apparatus and will install that made by Spalding & Brothers, of Chicopee. We hope to have a formal opening in about two weeks, or as soon as we can get the grounds ready.

Our Committee on Playground Supervision recommends the employment

of two supervisors. A man to look after the older boys and the athletics and a woman to look after the younger children and girls. We expect to employ these two supervisors for three months. In addition we shall have the assistance of the physical director of the local Y. M. C. A. and a number of volunteers— young men and women.

We hope that we can make this playground movement a municipal affair and have the city take up the care and management of it in the future. Until we can bring this about we will keep it going through voluntary subscriptions. Our Commissioner of Works is in hearty sympathy with us and will employ our supervisors as members of his department (which includes the parks) while we pay the salaries.

In the eastern section of the city we are now grading another park of about four acres and we hope to equip this later. We have decided for the present to concentrate our efforts on one of the playgrounds and make it serve as an object lesson. We feel confident that the demand for additional playgrounds will be so great that next year both will be in running order and we can direct our attention to smaller local playgrounds. I am given to understand that we may expect a contribution for the second playground next year which will equip it as fully as our first playgrounds.

We hope to be able next fall to erect a playground pavilion with baths and toilet facilities at this park. I have been thinking of a simple one-story cement or stone structure entirely above ground, containing a main room and at each end a smaller room containing baths and toilet facilities. The one for boys to open on the boys' grounds, the other for girls to open on the girls' grounds. The roof of this might be made of cement and over it a columnar structure raised, which would provide a shelter in rainy weather and also pro-

—PLAYGROUND LEAGUE

vide a comfortable retreat for parents who could from this point of vantage view the games in progress in different parts of the grounds.

Can you refer me to any one who can give me information concerning such a structure. I want to know more particularly about its equipment. The building itself I could plan readily enough, but I want the experience of those who have already used such playground shelters in order that we profit by it. I should especially like to know what some of these buildings cost in order that I may give intelligent answers to questions.

We appreciate the help you have already given us and hope you will continue your interest in our playgrounds.

Very truly yours,

RICHARD K. PIEZ.

JUNIOR PLAYGROUND LEAGUE OF THE OSWEGO MUNICIPAL PLAYGROUND ASSOCIATION.

PURPOSE.

This League shall be formed to secure the co-operation of the children of the city in the conduct of the public playgrounds; to insure equal rights and a "square deal" to all in the use of public playgrounds; to develop ideals of good citizenship; to stimulate public interest in playgrounds.

ORGANIZATION.

This League shall consist of a number of chapters which shall include the children of the different neighborhoods and be organized in accordance with the by-laws. The captains of the chapters shall constitute an advisory committee to co-operate with the Committee on Supervision and Administration of the *Oswego Municipal Playground Association*.

MEMBERSHIP.

The chapters shall consist of boys and

girls under eighteen who subscribe to the by-laws of the League.

BY-LAWS.

I. NAMES OF CHAPTERS.

1. Chapters shall be named after illustrious Americans.
2. The names shall be chosen by a majority of the members of a chapter.

II. MEMBERSHIP.

1. Chapters shall consist of not less than ten nor more than fifty members.
2. Boys and girls under eighteen are eligible upon signing the by-laws.
3. Members may be excluded from any chapter for flagrant misconduct. A majority vote of the Advisory Committee of the League and the Committee on Administration of the Playground Association shall be necessary to exclude any boy or girl from a chapter.
4. Boys excluded from one chapter for misconduct shall not be eligible to any other chapter.

III. MEETINGS.

1. Shall be held when called by the captain.
2. The captain of a chapter shall call a meeting upon the request of one-third of its members.

IV. OFFICERS.

1. The chapters shall choose a captain and a lieutenant by a majority vote of its members.
2. Officers shall serve for one year, or until their successors are elected.
3. The captain shall preside at all meetings of the chapter and shall perform such duties as the welfare of the chapter demands.
4. The lieutenant shall assist the captain and act in his place when from any cause the captain is unable to act.
5. The captain shall furnish the secretary of the Oswego Municipal Playground Association with a duplicate list of the members of his chapter.

ORGANIZED SPORTS—

THE PROPER RELATION OF ORGANIZED SPORTS ON PUBLIC PLAYGROUNDS AND IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

BY LORNA HIGBEE LELAND.

Playground Architect and Organizer.

(One of the Authors of Playground Technique and Playcraft.)

(Abstract of paper read at Denver Convention, N. E. A., 1909.)

THE PLAYGROUND STANDS FOR NATURAL, RACIAL AND SELF-EDUCATION.

It furnishes practically the only place in the city where the child is not obliged to do things foreign or distasteful to its nature. Play is nature's short cut to experience. It teaches the lessons which were beneficial to the race in past ages.

The play director is the interpreter of race tradition and is made necessary by the civilization, which prevents the child from observing adult activity under favorable conditions and opportunity for imitation. The play instructor secures his influence because he knows more things which will interest the children than their natural street leaders. The child is always the supreme judges of the efficiency of his leadership.

PLAYGROUND ACTIVITIES MUST BE RECREATIVE AND INTERESTING.

A system of educational play for the playground must be prescribed with freedom for the child to choose the games he will play. His choice can be guided to ethical, educational and hygienic ends, but these ends must be achieved on the playground, through the re-creative application of play.

THE SCHOOL STANDS FOR THE ACQUIRED EDUCATION OF CIVILIZATION.

Its system, developed by adults, represents the ideals toward which the race is consciously working.

To the child it represents external authority and order along with the teaching of parents, the church and society; it is the personification of the "eternal musts"; the place to learn to

work at disagreeable duties. School life should promote a high sense of duty as opposed to inclination, therefore the teacher is necessarily a disciplinarian and often a task master.

THE DISCIPLINE OF SCHOOLS AND PLAYGROUNDS IS ANTITHETICAL.

The disobedient child is kept after school as punishment; the playground excludes him from the games and grounds and makes the play so interesting that the child is punished.

THE SCHOOL SHOULD MEET THE NEEDS OF THE AVERAGE PUPIL.

The brightest at school must be kept back in order not to outstrip the dullards. Necessarily the passing mark is such that every student with proper study can reach it. Such methods raise average intelligence, the chief concomitant of civilization, but tend to limit individual initiative.

SCHOOL SPORTS SHOULD DEVELOP ALL THE CHILDREN.

Schools and playgrounds are both necessary to complete education. Each should follow its own traditions. Therefore a system of sports for public schools should be:

First.—Educational, teaching what adults decide best for the children.

Second.—They should meet the hygienic, social and educational conditions obtaining with the majority, who may be under-fed with insufficient sleep and living under unsanitary conditions.

The stimulus of intense competition may lead the ambitious, nervous child to greatly exceed the safe limitations of his strength.

Third.—They should be compulsory and a regular part of school work; with standards within reach of the average child.

Fourth.—They must be adapted to school equipment without extensive costly immediate changes.

Lastly.—They must not lose their identity as sports.

—ORGANIZED SPORTS

COMPETITION IN SCHOOL SPORTS SHOULD BE SUFFICIENT ONLY TO HOLD THE INTEREST OF THE CHILDREN.

School sports should prepare for freer competition on the playground. Informal, intra-school contests, or the formation of teams by choosing sides in the physical training classes should be sufficient to hold interest. Active participation by every pupil and equal development of all players should be the ideal of school sports.

THE PLAYGROUNDS SHOULD DEVELOP LEADERS.

The traditions of the playground are such that it furnishes unequaled opportunity, in an atmosphere of liberty, for the development of leaders. The child is here, not shielded from the consequences of his own misdoings. Many of the forces of education are maternal. Too much of this good thing creates dependence. It is sometimes claimed that things are made too easy for the children, that knowledge is fed out to them in homeopathic, sugar-coated doses. They eat the sugar-coating and become acquainted with the tree of knowledge under other and more interesting but less moral conditions. The playground aims to improve these other conditions. It represents life standards of child civilization. In order to "make" the team it is necessary "to deliver the goods." If little Johnnie "muffs a pop up," his peers sit in judgment and the jury pay no attention to the plea that "he did his best." The verdict is "give him the sack off the team." There is no 65 per cent. mark on the playground.

INTER-SCHOOL COMPETITION CAN BE CARRIED ON BEST THROUGH THE CO-OPERATION OF THE PUBLIC PLAYGROUNDS.

Playground, school sports, under the joint control of the public schools, private and parochial schools and playgrounds should furnish opportunity

through competition for the development of leaders. Only those passing certain physical and mental standards should compete. Teams including all those who "passed," in athletics should be formed to compete with respective teams from other schools on the playground. There would be first, second, third, etc., teams for each sport in each school. The total score would be the combined score of all the teams. District games would be played off in the nearest playground. The championship meet could be made a great Fourth of July Festival. Prizes should be inexpensive, ribbons and banners to go to the team, school and playground rather than to individuals.

THE DANGERS OF COMPETITION.

Competition, unless carefully regulated leads to specialization, introducing commercialism and corruption in athletics. Children's sports should be developed for the sake of the children not for the sake of the game and the spectator. American sports, especially in college, high school and athletic clubs are professional in methods and ideals because they are intended mainly to interest the spectator and not for the benefit of the player. The playing rules for professional and amateurs should be on an entirely different basis. The educators of our country can absolutely change the tendency of our national games by controlling the rules committees. These committees have been generally made up of professional coaches and others, who judging from results have been interested largely in the money side of the game. Naturally the tendency of the game has been toward specialization.

Clean sport campaigns may be necessary and right among professionals, but for amateurs, they should strike at the roots of evil by modifying the conditions which cause corruption.

Children who have not been subjected to corrupting influences are naturally sportsmen and play the game for the game's sake.

PLAYGROUNDS—

EDUCATORS SHOULD PREPARE AND PUBLISH MODIFIED RULES TO DEVELOP CHILDREN'S SPORTS WITH AMATEUR IDEALS.

The control of rules committees, modifications and publication of rules, governing the sports of schools and playgrounds should be in the hands of educators, physical educators, hygienists and others, who are not dependent upon commercial interests in securing and holding their positions. Such a rules committee should modify our traditional games to adapt them to city, school and playground conditions and should publish these modified rules and keep control of the situation rather than permit the publication and control to be taken up by the same interests which have done so much to specialize American games.

When the children's games of our country follow in the commercial and professional footsteps of the games for adults, as now played, then amateur sports in America will indeed be dead.

Cheyenne, Wyo., has raised a fund for playgrounds by means of a "Tag Day." The undertaking has been under the direction of the Woman's Civic League. The funds will be used for equipping and supervising Cheyenne's first public playground.

PLAYGROUNDS.

By J. J. KELSO, TORONTO.

"**I**T is safe to predict that in the next few years thousands of acres of valuable city land will be returned to the children for health and recreation. In the rapid development of cities and eagerness for wealth and commercial success, no thought was given to the city beautiful, nor did any one realize that the vacant lots on which their boyish pastimes were held would disappear so rapidly. Now thoughtful men see the mistake that has been made

and are earnestly striving to restore the children's heritage. Much remains to be done, but public sentiment is sound on this question and will endorse the necessary expenditure.

"Four or five district playgrounds will not by any means meet the need. Better three small playgrounds than one large one. The tendency is to establish playgrounds in the suburbs where land is cheap, but they should be just as numerous in the heart of the city where congestion of population breeds moral and physical degeneracy. A playground should be within five minutes' walk of **every child**, and if we allow a playground for every twenty thousand of a city's population we can see how far behind this standard most of our cities are at the present time.

"Equipment is essential, but far more important even than that is the supervision given to the children in their play. If enthusiastic directors with the proper moral viewpoint are given charge of these playgrounds they can do a truly national work in the development of a sound physique and high character. As much if not more can be learned from play than from books, though there need be no rivalry, and it is undoubtedly true that play diverts from crime and low pursuits; creating contentment and cheerfulness and inspiring youth with noble ideals.

"If here and there a few old rookeries were torn down and the land devoted to play space more than one useful purpose would be served. Two hundred feet frontage with the ordinary depth of one hundred and fifty feet would make a good neighborhood playground. Too many children gathered in one place is not desirable.

"Children need outdoor amusements in winter as well as in summer, and if there is the willingness to provide for their needs it can be done without great expense. Free skating rinks should be numerous. Thousands of children have

—PLAYGROUNDS

been denied the pleasure and benefit of skating because they could not pay for admission to rinks. The civic government as the guardian of children should be interested in the welfare and happiness of future citizens, and should make recreation and simple sport as free as the air. Healthy enjoyment should never depend on the possession of wealth. The fact of being a child is the all-sufficient reason why play should be encouraged, and every faculty provided.

"To secure the proper number of playgrounds, rinks, toboggan slides, gymnasiums, bath houses, etc., will require constant agitation for years to come. If the enthusiasm lags they will not be provided, for large expenditure will be necessary. Therefore may we not appeal confidently on behalf of the children to men in authority, aldermen, school trustees, editors, business men, educators—to keep the playground movement constantly in view, giving it their endorsement and advocacy whenever possible, remembering that the best type of citizen can be evolved only from the healthy, robust child, who has had a free and well-rounded youth spent in cheerful and clean moral environment."

EXTRACT FROM A TORONTO PLAYGROUND LEAFLET.

If the present generation of children has been overlooked what of the generations yet to come?

It is late, but not too late to provide these playgrounds.

They should be small but numerous, rather than large and few—not in the suburbs, but in the heart of the congested districts.

Good women should be employed to supervise the play life of the children.

Athletic instructors can greatly influence and help boys from ten to sixteen years of age.

Healthy and happy play will save from idleness, vice and crime.

Education of the best kind is acquired on a supervised playground.

There should be a Playground Association formed in every city and large town.

Men and women who remember their own childhood can help this cause by talking playground on every suitable occasion.

Children cannot vote—you vote for them.

PLAN OF THE CHILDREN'S FESTIVALS COMMITTEE.

IT is the wish of the Hudson-Fulton Commission that the children of the City of New York be afforded an opportunity to participate actively in the pleasures and honors of the Hudson-Fulton Celebration, to which the city and State have been so long committed, and for which an unparalleled demonstration at great expense is being planned and prepared for the adult population.

The historic pageants of play for children in a number of other cities have proved inspiring and no doubt make for better and more efficient citizenship in the future, at the same time giving plan and purpose to the life of the children of the streets. The children of New York City may well emulate the prowess and skill of the city, and unite in one great effort to do honor to heroes, who by deeds of daring, physical and mental, have been the first to bring such large and beneficent factors into the civilization of the world as have Hudson and Fulton at this center of the world's commerce.

The Department of Education has well planned to devote Wednesday, September 29th to literary and other commemorative exercises within the school buildings of the city. The private, corporate and church schools have also agreed to have appropriate programs for that day. The course of instruction may wisely include such lit-

HUDSON-FULTON CELEBRATION—

erary and dramatic references to the early history of the city.

The Hudson-Fulton Commission has, however, set aside Saturday, October 2d, as the day for a children's carnival, a pageantry, parade and play, wherein the play instinct of the children may be developed along civic and historic lines that they may live in their play and work the life of the earlier settlers, or in representation of more recent arrivals bring their skill and the best forms of their social life to do homage to the city and civilization of their adoption, under the leadership of their parents and societies representing many different countries represented in the life of the city.

The course of instruction in the public schools may not wisely or economically be diverted for a month or more for the training necessary for this civic demonstration, on the part of the children.

The parents of the children in each historic center of the city should, therefore, rally to co-operate with the Children's Festivals Committee of the Hudson-Fulton Commission.

The plans should moreover accord with the wishes of the parents and children as no child who is willing to turn his or her play into this historic direction for the summer should be denied an opportunity of participating on this great occasion.

The leading educational systems—social, historic, civic, industrial, and dramatic associations are invited to name each a leading official to co-operate with the committee as a Board of Directors to advise as to places and peoples, ways and means, and also to offer expert members as volunteers to serve in the several committees to formulate plans along technical lines, and other workers to carry on the work from day to day each in some one place. The Committee will require the services of a number of grand marshals and large committees to take charge each of

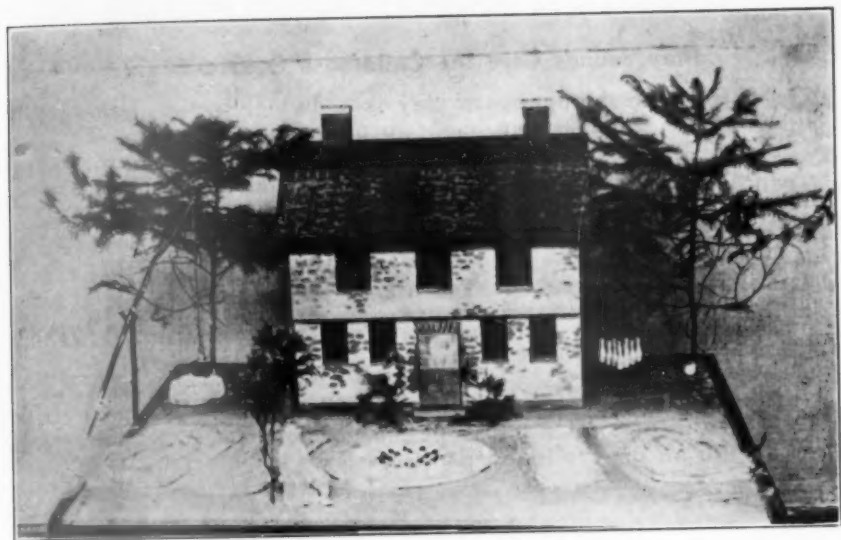
some one section of the city in one large park or playground, and the afternoon parade and carnival of play, and many more marshals and local committees to shape and control the morning plays, pageants, and dramatic representations for October 2d in small parks, playgrounds, and other places, especially for the girls, small boys, and kindergarten children.

The co-operation of the different patriotic and national societies is requested for the development of appropriate representative plays and lines of work with children of the many nationalities. Young collegians and kindergartners can serve and render effective co-operation, and even the older boys and girls.

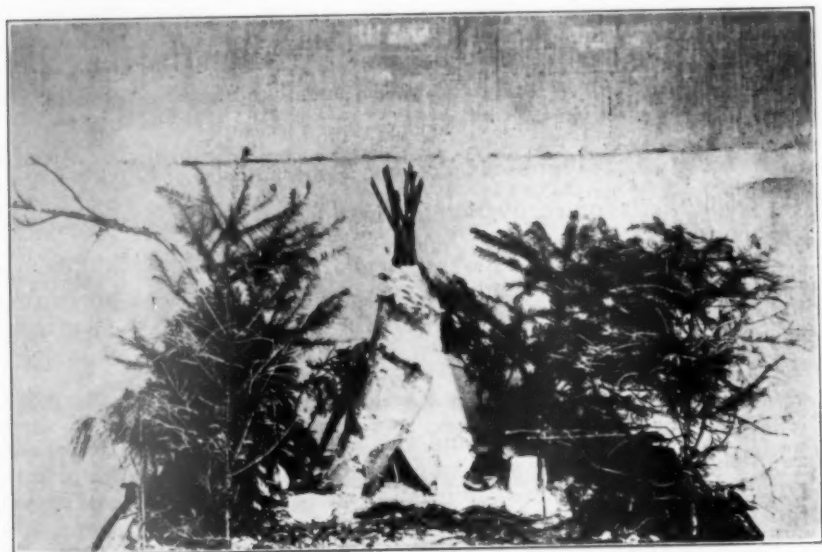
Camp life in camps as training schools within the city limits in places where the Indians, the Dutch, the early settlers, the colonists, and villagers lived, is planned that some of the older boys may live in the open the life lived in the earliest days of the city, and reproduce the play and work of the time. These camps will serve as places at which children from other parts of the city by arrangement may spend the day to acquire the spirit and some of the life intended to be represented.

The picture on page 19 is a copy of a photograph of two models that can be seen at the Brooklyn office of the Children's Festivals Committee at 180 Montague Street. The first is a duplicate of Peter Stuyvesant's Bowerie House; the second is a copy of an Indian's Teepee. These models are small, and it is the hope of the Committee that children in different parts of the city will be pleased to copy them, and exhibit them on the day of the Festival, October 2d.

All men, women, and older children who desire to co-operate in any one of the above ways should address Children's Festivals Committee, 1135 Broadway, New York City.



PETER STUYVESANT'S BOWERIE HOUSE.



INDIAN TEPEE.

PLAYGROUND POSTERS—

SUGGESTIONS FOR PLAYGROUND POSTERS.

Playgrounds Give the Children a Square Deal.

"The universal impulse to play is a divinely ordered thing. If God gives the impulse man ought to provide the playground."

JOSIAH STRONG.

"He who helps a boy become a strong and good man makes a contribution of the first order to the welfare of society."

PHILLIPS BROOKS.

Playgrounds Teach Law and Order.

"Playgrounds are necessary for the development of wholesome citizenship in modern cities."

THEODORE ROOSEVELT.

"Self-government is to be learned as an experience, rather than taught as a theory. Hence, in a permanent democracy adequate playgrounds for all the children are a necessity."

LUTHER HALSEY GULICK.

Playgrounds Lessen Juvenile Crime.

"Well equipped and efficiently supervised playgrounds are one of the most effective means of saving city children."

JUDGE DE LACY.

"Juvenile crime in cities is, to the greatest extent, a question of a place to play."

EARL OF MEATH.

"Amusement is stronger than vice, and it alone can stifle the lust for it."

JANE ADDAMS.

Playgrounds Prevent Tuberculosis.

Resolution adopted by the International Tuberculosis Congress, Washington, D. C.

"*Resolved*, That this Congress endorses and recommends the establishment of playgrounds as an important means of preventing tuberculosis, through their influence upon health and resistance to disease."

Playgrounds Lessen Accidents.

"Rochester playgrounds and the swimming pools in the parks, have resulted in a much smaller number of accidental deaths of children during the past year than usual. There was a decrease of 83 per cent. in drownings."

Mayor EDGERTON, Rochester, N. Y.

One thousand nine hundred and thirty-five children's accidents were reported by newspaper clippings for June, 1908; six hundred and forty-nine of these (1-3) were street accidents.

—PLAYGROUND HAPPENINGS

PLAYGROUND HAPPENINGS.

BY LEE F. HANMER.

Chairman Publication Committee.

Mr. H. R. Fehr, General Manager of Island Park, an amusement resort at Easton, Pa., writes that he has installed a well equipped children's playground at the park this summer, and adds "This is the most popular innovation we have had, and we expect to make extensive additions to it next year." Beside the usual playground apparatus, Mr. Fehr has also installed a wading pool at the playgrounds.

A campaign for playgrounds has been waged so effectively in Reading, Pa., that the school board has decided to equip some of the school yards, keep them open during the summer, and provide supervision. The City Council has also made an appropriation, and several donations of property and supplies have come from public spirited citizens. The press of the city aided materially in this campaign which the Woman's Civic Club has been carrying on.

Evansville, Ind., has undertaken playgrounds with characteristic western vigor. Five school yards and three park spaces have been equipped and thrown open for use. A fine swimming pool has been constructed by the city at an expense of \$2,500. The expense of supervision is being carried by public subscriptions.

Sixty playgrounds conducted by the Board of Education were opened in Philadelphia on July 1st. Twenty public bath houses have also been opened for the season. They are open from 9 A. M. to 9 P. M. on week days, and from 6 to 9 A. M. on Sundays. It is reported that 6,187,736 baths were taken at these bathing places last year.

The Woman's Club of Ottumwa, Ia., has this season opened the first public playground for that city.

President F. M. Guion, of the Seattle School Board is advocating the use of the school yards as city playgrounds during the summer. Seattle is developing a fine system of playgrounds in its public parks. The local Park Playground Commission is planning to hold a play festival for the children of the city during the Alaska-Yukon-Pacific Exposition.

Dr. Thomas Harrington, Director of Hygiene in the Boston public schools, announces the opening of twenty-two school yards as public playgrounds, and twelve children's corners in the parks. These are open each day from 10 A. M. to 5 P. M.

Among the loan orders passed by the Board of Aldermen at Holyoke, Mass., on July 6th was an item of \$25,000 for acquiring land for public playgrounds.

The Park Board of the city of Dallas, Texas, with the assistance of contributions amounting to \$2,500, has purchased for \$11,000 a playground site 300 by 600 feet in the Cotton Mill District, and has appropriated \$2,500 for its construction and equipment. To this sum the City Federation of Women's Clubs have added \$250. The plans call for separate spaces and equipment for the boys, the girls, and the children, also for a ball field and shower bathhouse with separate arrangements for males and for females. The plans reserve space for a large outdoor swimming pool, and for a recreation building; and all fencing, plumbing, grading, etc., will be done with the expectation of securing this additional equipment next year.

(Signed) J. K. STAPLES.

PLAYGROUND HAPPENINGS—

That the playground movement is becoming popular with the citizens of Reading, Pa., is evidenced by the loan of a large plot of land by Mr. George D. Horst to the Woman's Club for a children's playground. This is the second plot contributed this year for this purpose, the first donation being made by Mr. A. Thalheimer.

Wilmington, Del., has purchased at a cost of four thousand dollars an addition to Eden Park. This addition is to be used as a children's playground.

Mayor Logan, of Worcester, Mass., has announced that arrangements have been completed for the purchase of a tract of land for \$35,000 for a public playground.

Mayor Hibbard, of Boston, announces that \$140,000 is to be expended for additional playgrounds this year.

Buffalo has been spending \$16,000 a year for maintenance of its playgrounds. A bond issue of \$100,000 for additional playgrounds has been approved. Mayor Adams urges that a Commission be appointed to make a careful study of the needs of the city in this direction so that the money may be most effectively and economically used.

The work of the playgrounds under the Board of Education in New York city has been considerably hampered by the action of the Board of Estimate and Apportionment in reducing the appropriation of \$155,000 to \$55,000.

The Allegheny Playground and Vacation School Association which conducts the playgrounds for the North Side of Greater Pittsburgh, has opened for the summer nineteen playgrounds and vacation schools.

Mayor Nevin, of Butte, Mont., in his message to the City Council on May 3d, urged strongly the need of making provision for public playgrounds throughout the city.

The Playground Association of Kansas City reports that more sites have been offered free of rental than the Association is able to equip and maintain. The Association will conduct three playgrounds during the coming summer.

The newly appointed Playground Commission of Camden, N. J., has received from this city an appropriation of \$2,000 for maintenance of playgrounds during the coming summer.

On May 21st the playground at the McCormick public school in Chicago was formally dedicated. This playground has been laid out and equipped at the expense of \$14,000. It was made possible by a donation from the McCormick estate in addition to the appropriation from the Board of Education and the Park Commission. Mrs. Cyrus H. McCormick has announced that she will make a special donation of \$500 to provide for supervision during the summer.

Next year's budget for the city of Newark contains the item of \$40,277.57 for public playgrounds.

A Playground Association has recently been organized for Hornell, N. Y. Two playgrounds will be conducted by the Association during the coming summer.

The Playground Committee of the Chamber of Commerce of McKeesport, Pa., has undertaken to open and conduct a public playground and swimming pool for the children of the city during the summer of 1909.

—PLAYGROUND HAPPENINGS

The playground fund in Watertown, N. Y., was increased very materially by a unique contribution from the proprietors of business places fronting on the public square. They rented the use of their windows during the Fourth of July Celebration and gave the entire proceeds to the Playground Committee.

Mr. Frank C. Reed has donated to the city of Adams, Mass., a site for a public playground. The city recently voted for the adoption of the State playground act. The gift of Mr. Reed is most opportune.

Under the new playground law of Indiana the city of Indianapolis has created a Playground Commission consisting of two members from the Board of Park Commissioners, two members from the Board of School Commissioners, and a fifth member appointed by the Mayor. School yards and park spaces will be used as playgrounds during the coming summer.

Through the efforts of the Village Improvement Society of Newton Center, Mass., a tract of marsh land which was regarded as a positive menace to the city is being converted into a public playground.

In connection with the movement for playgrounds in Schenectady, N. Y., a Public Schools Athletic League has been organized. Supt. Brubacher is active in the support of this movement. The Board of Estimate and Apportionment has decided to purchase a piece of land centrally located for a children's playground.

The Board of Aldermen of St. Paul, Minn., passed an ordinance on May 24th directing the issue of bonds for \$24,000

for the purchase of new playground sites.

Mayor Olson, of Moline, Ill., in his annual message to the City Council on May 17th, said: "The two most important projects that now concerns the people of Moline are the creation of playgrounds for the young and the construction of parks for all. Playgrounds are almost as necessary to the young as are school houses. The two are inseparable."

On April 26th a playground association was organized in Sioux City, Ia. The following officers were elected: E. E. Stacey, President; J. B. Modesitt, Secretary; Mrs. M. P. Smith, Treasurer. Several playgrounds will be open during the coming summer. A juvenile league of baseball clubs has already been formed.

On March 25th a playground association was organized in Fort Plain, N. Y. It is the outcome of the playgrounds that were successfully conducted by the Mothers' Clubs last summer.

Dr. J. H. Sawyer, principal of Wilsonton Seminary at Easthampton, Mass., has offered to the city the use of the Seminary grounds as public playground during the summer vacation. The only condition is that the city provides sufficient funds to properly supervise the use of the grounds.

The permanent educational exhibit at the state capitol in Albany, N. Y., is being enlarged by the addition of pictures and data concerning children's playgrounds throughout the state. State Commissioner of Education, Andrew A. Draper, has delegated the collection and arrangement of this material to Mrs. F. W. Thomas, of Troy, N. Y.

PLAYGROUND HAPPENINGS—

It is announced that the municipal council of Haverhill, Mass., has decided to purchase a tract of fourteen acres at an expense of \$10,000 for public playgrounds. \$3,000 will be spent by the city in equipping these grounds. This action is in accordance with the playground vote at the recent state election.

The school board of St. Joseph is to conduct the summer playgrounds for the city. The work was started last year by the organization of a playground association. Two playgrounds were maintained. Mr. Henry Kreug, Jr., physical training director in the public schools, served as supervisor.

At the meeting of the Kentucky Educational Association at Lexington, Ky., during the last of June, it was decided to appoint a special committee "to study the playground movement and work for its furtherance in the State of Kentucky." The resolution adds, "Class-room ethics without the practical laboratory ethics of the playground is futile."

About a year ago a Playground Association was organized in St. Joseph, Mo. Contributions were secured for equipping and supervising two playgrounds during the summer. This year five playgrounds are in operation and a large part of the expense is being borne by the school board. The director of physical training in the public schools is supervisor of playgrounds.

An unsightly dumping ground on the river front at Nashville, Tenn., has been transformed into an artistically arranged playground for the children of the neighborhood.

The City Council of Yonkers, N. Y., has passed an ordinance recommending that the city purchase a playground site on Clinton Street, which is one of the

congested sections of the city. This ordinance came before the Board of Estimate and Apportionment and was unanimously approved.

The residents in the vicinity of the Calhoun School in Minneapolis, Minn., have undertaken to raise a fund of thirty-five hundred dollars to purchase property near the school for a playground. It was reported on June 8th that twenty-eight dollars of this sum had been secured.

The Providence playgrounds are to be in charge of Miss M. J. O'Connor again this summer. Miss O'Connor was the first supervisor appointed when the playgrounds were opened in 1906. She is to have a force of forty-five assistants.

The newly organized Playground Association of Davenport, Ia., is planning to open five playgrounds during the coming summer. They have sent a delegate to Chicago to study administration and equipment. A popular fund of \$2,000 is being raised.

A public swimming pool 120 by 220 feet has been opened this summer in McKeesport, Pa. A public playground will be opened in connection with the swimming pool next year. At present there are three playgrounds in operation under the direction of the Playground Committee. Also playgrounds in two wards of the city established and supported by the residents of these sections.

Under the direction of the Playground Commission of East Orange, N. J., advisory committees have been formed among the children at the various playgrounds. The object is to keep the Commission in closer touch with the activities on the playgrounds, and to encourage the children to co-operate with the Commission.



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Playground Associations

THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION. The aim of the Playground Association of America is to aid the playground movement by helping local organizations, by furnishing printed matter, loaning lantern slides, counselling with reference to plans and policies, securing speakers, etc.

ITS MONTHLY MAGAZINE, entitled "The Playground," is a propagandist publication. The Association also publishes the Proceedings of its annual congress and reprints articles on all phases of playground work, furnishing them at cost prices to local bodies.

THE FINANCIAL SUPPORT of the Playground Association of America depends entirely on the generosity of interested individuals. It is neither endowed nor subsidized in any way. The Chairman and Secretary of the Playground Extension Committee of the Russell Sage Foundation are temporarily aiding the Playground Association of America without compensation from the Association.

LOCAL PLAYGROUND ASSOCIATIONS are the forces which educate the public to the point where playgrounds are supported by the city.

THE RELATION BETWEEN THE NATIONAL AND LOCAL ASSOCIATIONS is one of harmonious co-operation, but neither contributes financially to the support of the other. Local associations in which ten or more of the members join the National Association may nominate one of their members for election to the Council of the National Association.